

Hunting Accident Report

2003

By Timothy J. Lawhern and Teri Galbraith

Hunting Accident -- is that in which a person is injured by the discharge of a hunting firearm or bow and arrow outside of the home and arising from the activity of hunting, including travel to and from the hunting field.

There were 35 total hunting incidents during the 2003 hunting season, including 2 fatal incidents. Both of these fatal incidents occurred during the gun deer season. In 2003 we certified 28,069 Basic Hunter Education students and 395 new volunteer Hunter Education Instructors. We also certified 2,000 students in Bow Hunter Education and 111 new volunteer Bow Hunter Instructors. Thanks to our volunteer Hunter Education Instructors, hunting is a safe activity in Wisconsin.

Twenty-four of the total incidents for the year occurred in the months of October and November, with November having 18 of that figure. Five months of the year, April, May, June, July and August had no hunting incidents. The weekends accounted for 62% of all incidents. Between 6:00 AM and 4:00 PM there were 27 incidents with 8 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, and 8 between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

In order of species hunted the incident totals were deer 58%, turkey 6%, rabbit 12%, squirrel 3%, pheasant 6%, waterfowl 12%, and grouse at 3% each.

The types of firearms involved in incidents included 59% shotguns, 34% rifles, and 3% handguns and bows. Semi auto actions were involved in 31% of the incidents and slide actions 31%.

Causes for incidents included 1 being victim out of sight of the shooter and 7 being victim covered by shooter swinging on game. Other causes, 3 shooter's failure to positively identify game, 2 the shooter stumbled and fell, 3 from a ricochet, and 1 the trigger caught on an object. Distance from shooter to the victim was between 0-1 yards in 23% (10), 51-100 yards in 31% (11), and 21-50 yards 20% (7) of the 2 party accidents. The activities shooters were involved in were: 2 drivers, 6 standers, 3 still hunting, 7 stalking, and 3 were in a tree stand.

Weather again appeared to be somewhat of a factor as 59% of the incidents occurred on cloudy days and 70% occurred with no precipitation. Eighty percent of the incidents occurred during daylight hours and 3% during dawn and the night, and 14% during dusk.

Members of the same party were involved in 57% (27) of the 2 party incidents. These figures lend truth to the slogan "Choose your hunting partners as if your life depends on it, because it just might!" The shooter could see the victim in 43% (15) of these incidents. There were 16 self-inflicted incidents.

Shooters with 20+ years of experience accounted for 69% (24), and 0 to 5 years of experience accounted for 11% (4), and 16 to 20 years 3% (3), of the incidents that occurred. The 12 to 17 year olds 6% (2), and 30 to 39 year olds 6% (2), and 40 to 49 year olds 21% (9) and 50 to 59 year olds 18% (6) were the leading age groups of shooters in incidents.

Thirty seven percent of the victims in 2 party accidents were wearing no hat or it is unknown what color the hat was, and 63% were wearing a blaze orange cap, and 4% is unknown what color the coat or vest was and 53% were wearing a blaze orange coat or vest.

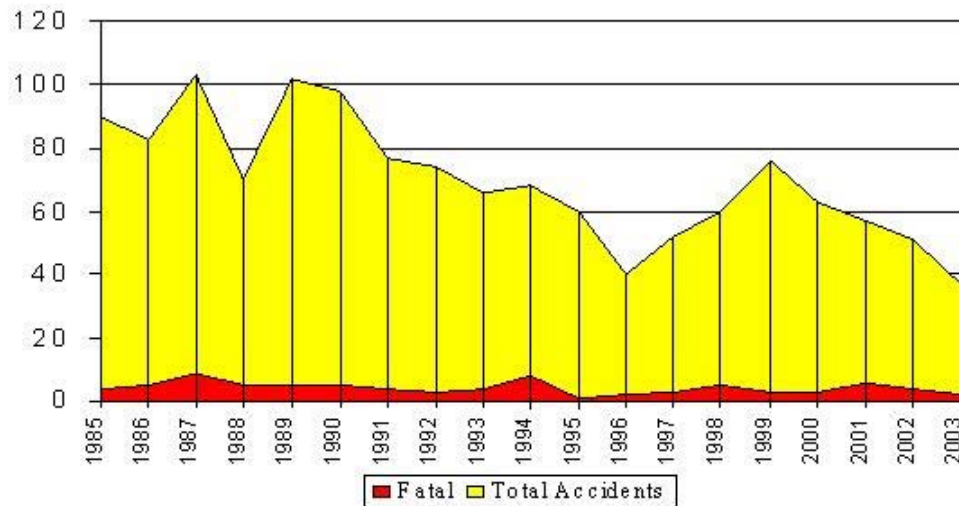
To summarize this report, hunters, education instructors, sportsman organizations, and Conservation Wardens should be congratulated for making 2003 a safe year to hunt in Wisconsin. Incident totals were the lowest than the 10 year average for both the deer gun season and the entire year. There were 2 Deer hunting fatal incidents. The point of always identifying your target before shooting needs to be reinforced by all hunters. Even as we congratulate ourselves we must continue to improve on this record because as we all know any incident is ONE too many. Remember the slogan "Safe Hunting is No Accident."

Timothy J. Lawhern
Hunter Education Administrator

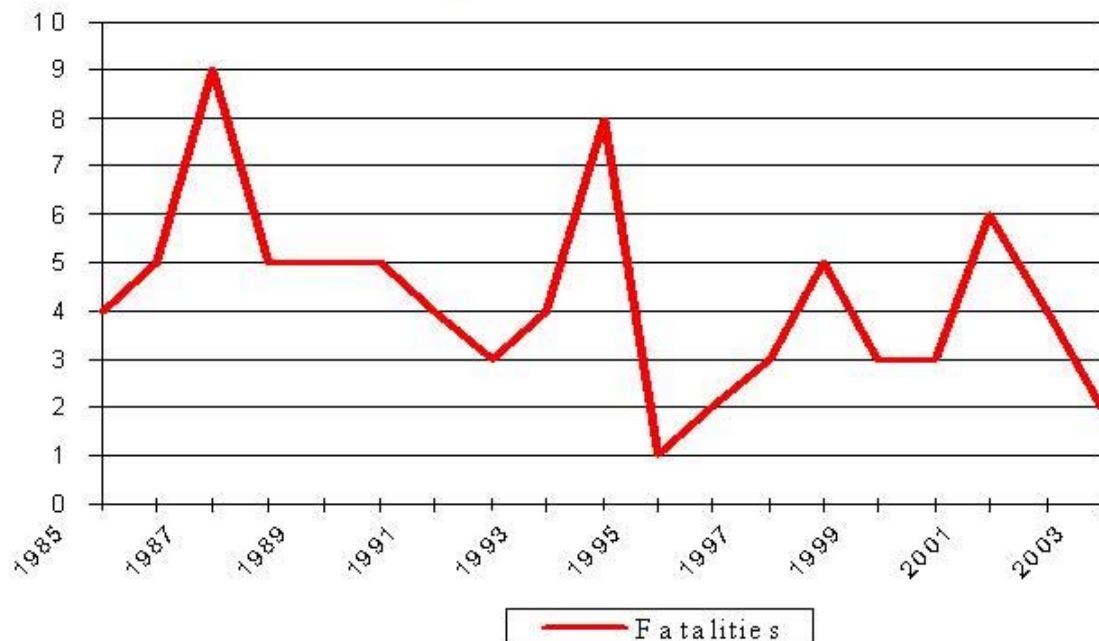
Teri Galbraith
Hunter Education Program Assistant

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Telephone (608) 266-2141

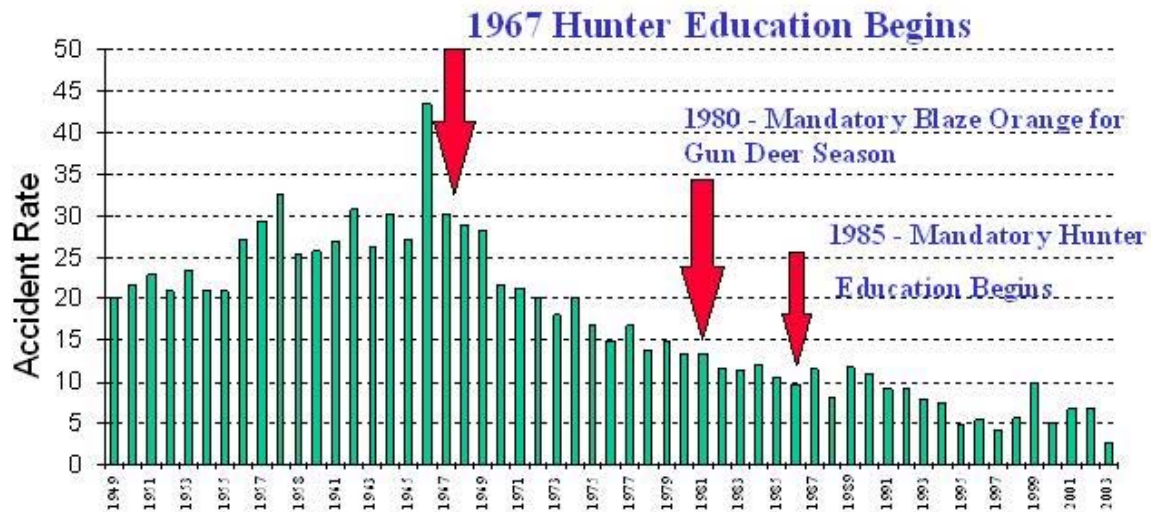
History of Hunting Incidents



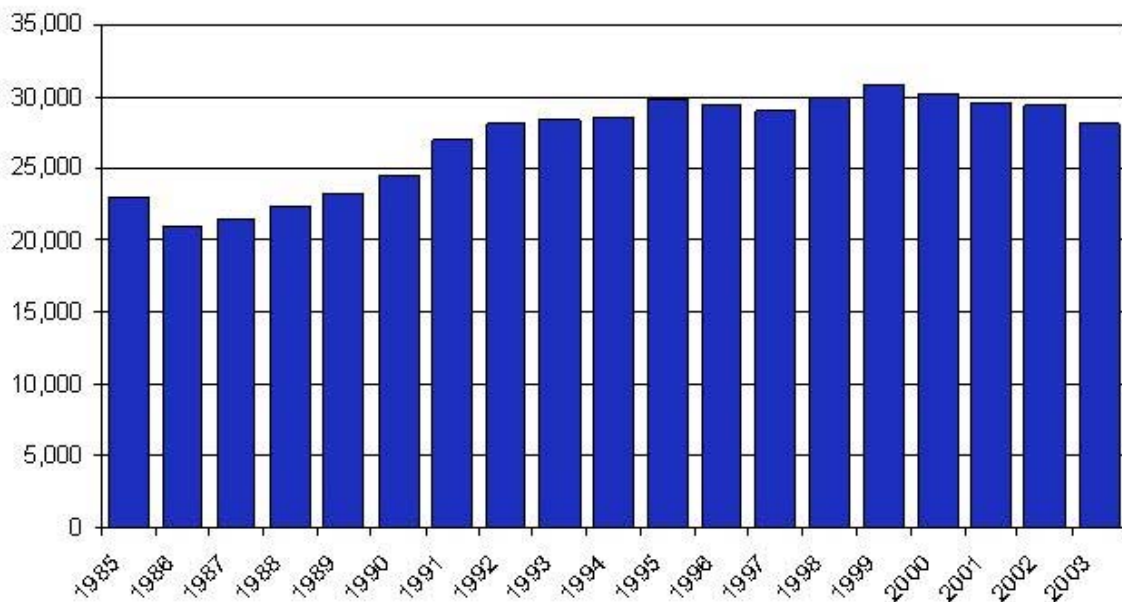
History of Fatalities



Wisconsin Hunting Incident Rate Per 100,000 Hunters

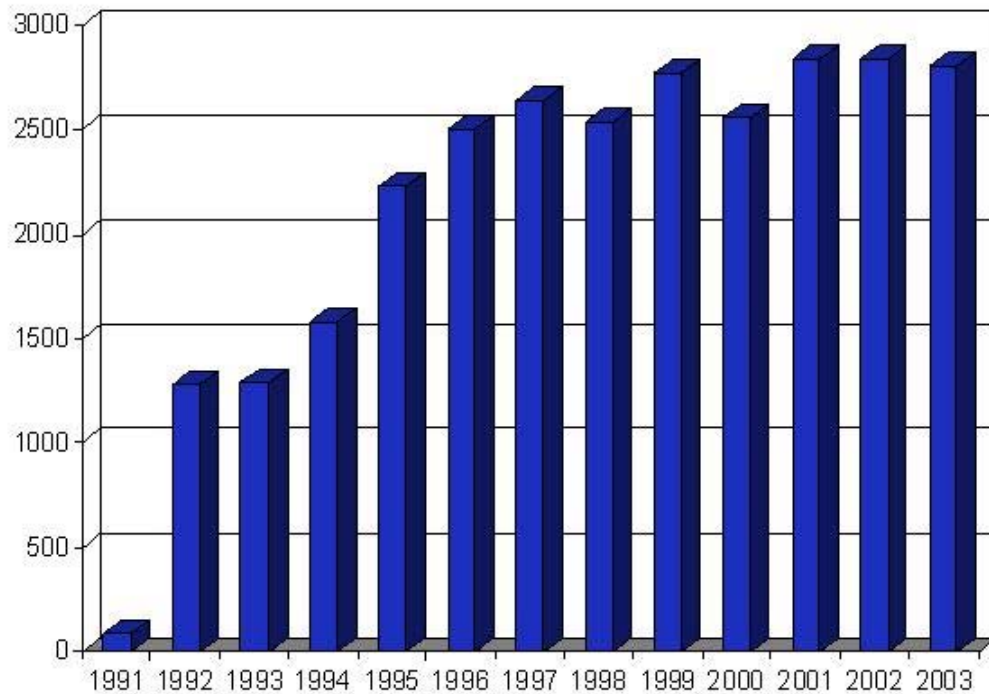


Hunter Education Students Certified



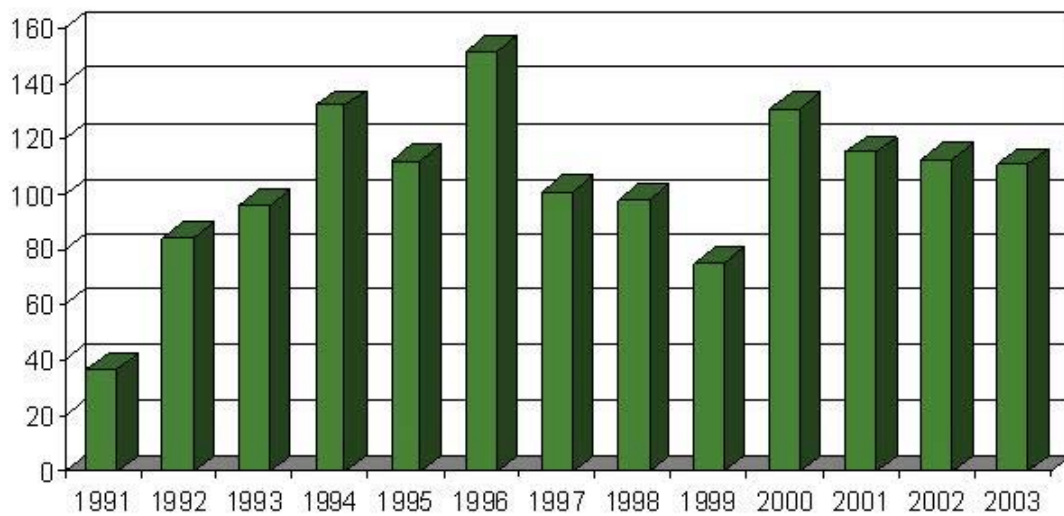
BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

Students Certified



BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

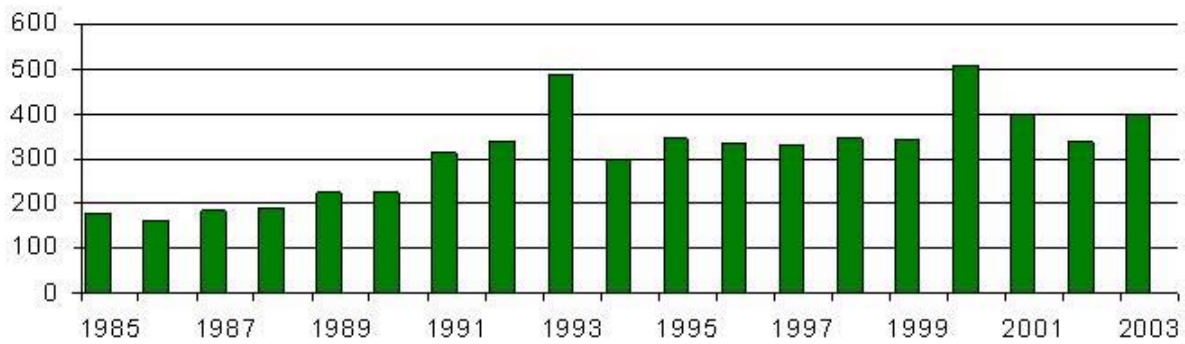
Instructors Certified



Total Active Instructors - 494

HUNTER EDUCATION

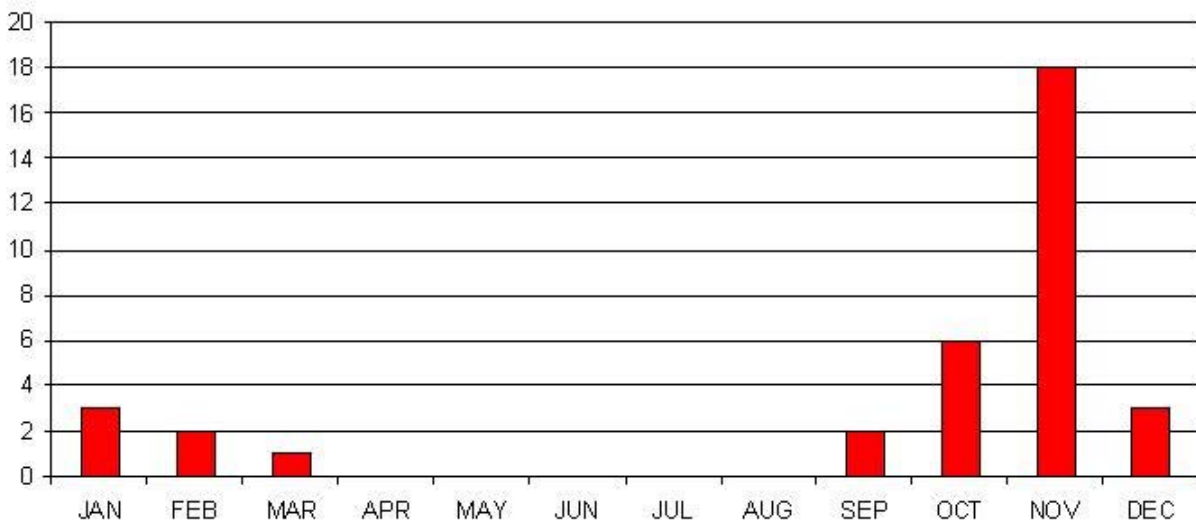
Instructors Certified



Total Active Instructors = 3,856

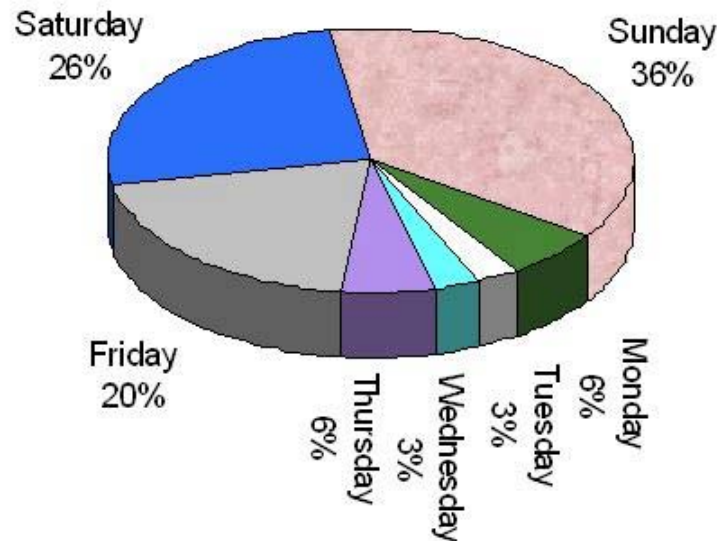
Month of Incident

All Incidents 2003



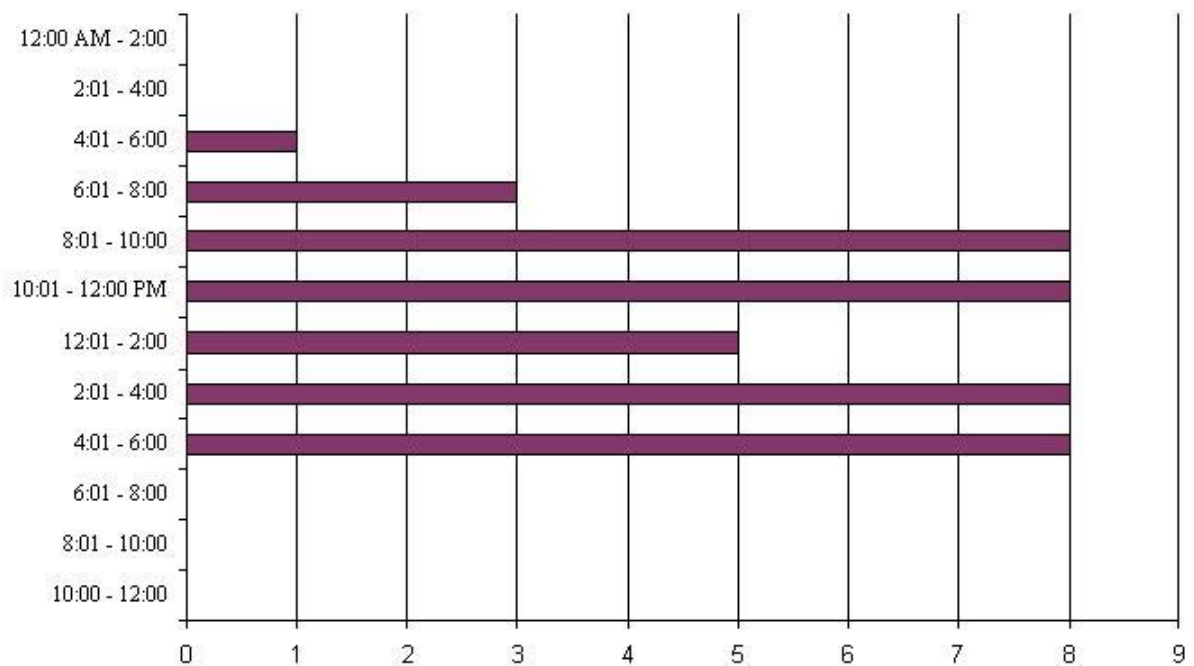
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

All Incidents 2003



TIME OF DAY

All Incidents 2003

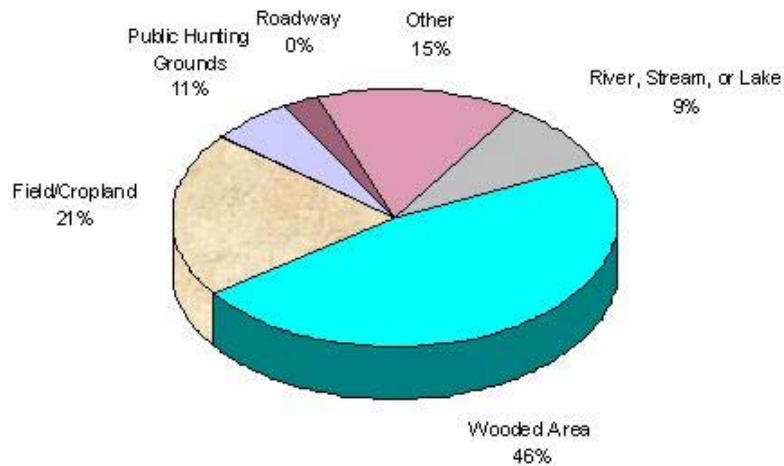


35 Total Accidents Reported

WHERE INCIDENTS OCCURRED

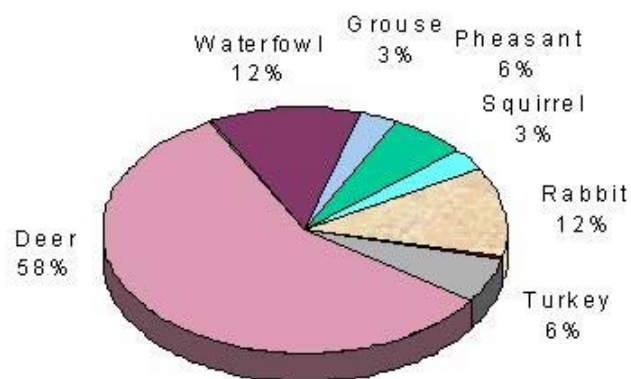
All Incidents 2003

Type of Land



ANIMALS HUNTED BY SHOOTER

All Incidents 2003



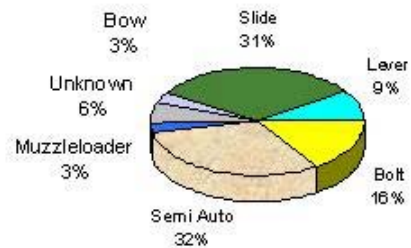
FIREARMS INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS

All Incidents 2003

Type

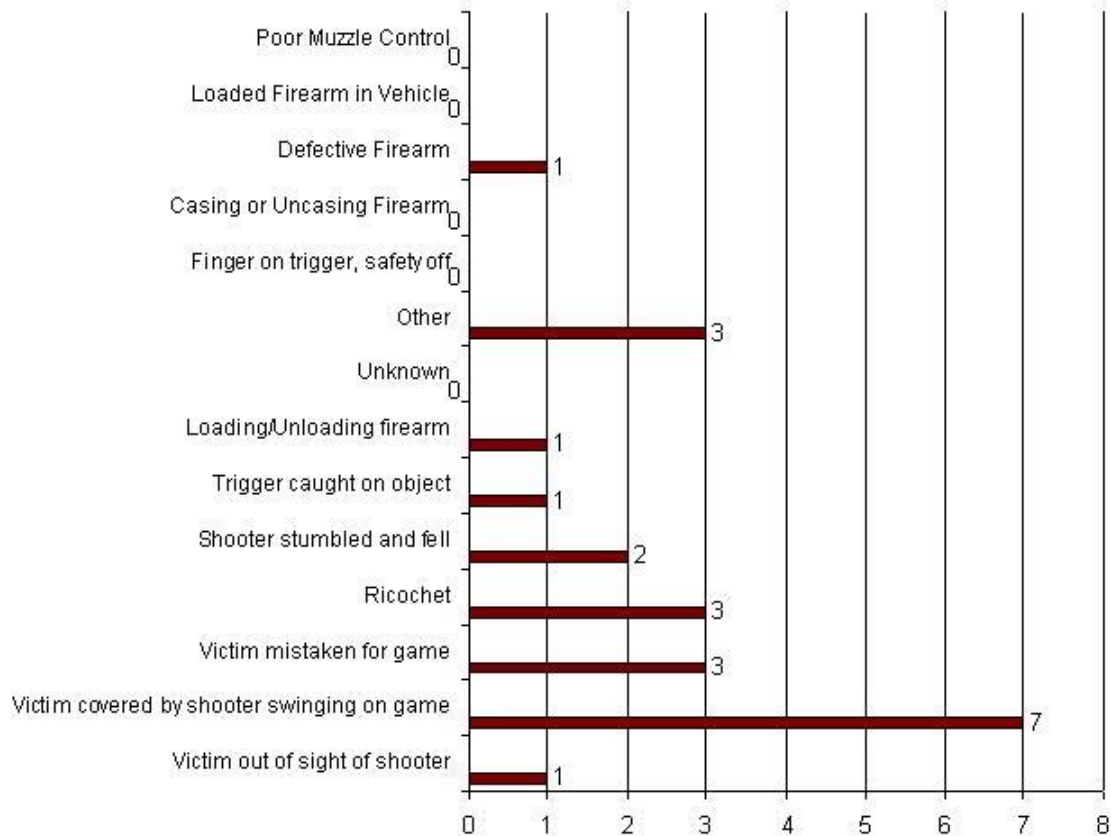


Action



Contributing Factors to Incidents

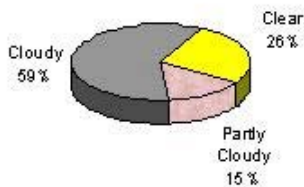
All Incidents 2003



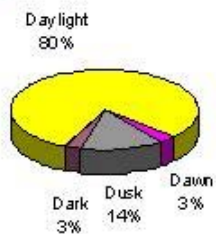
INCIDENT CONDITIONS

All Incidents 2003

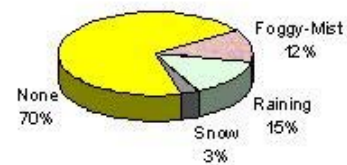
Weather



Light Conditions



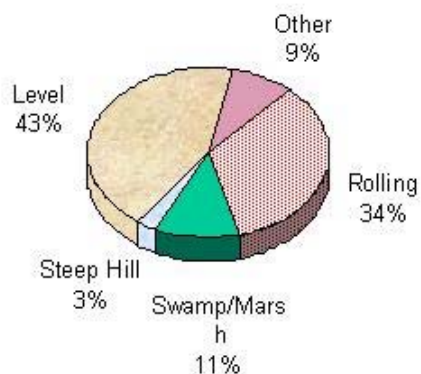
Precipitation



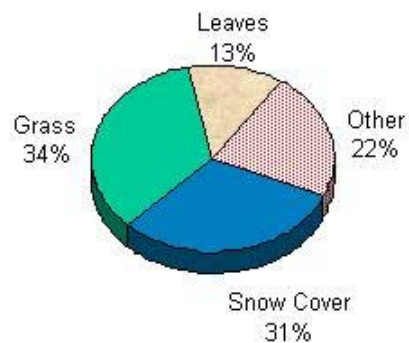
INCIDENT CONDITIONS

All Incidents 2003

Topography

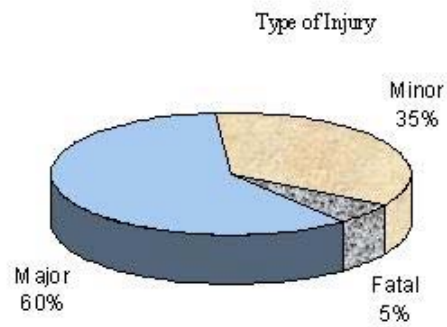
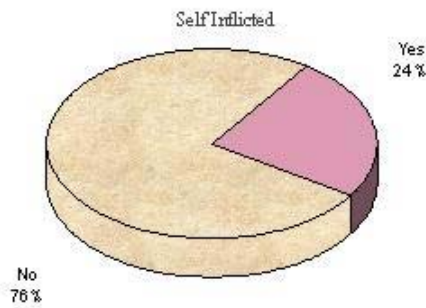


Ground Cover



INCIDENT STATISTICS

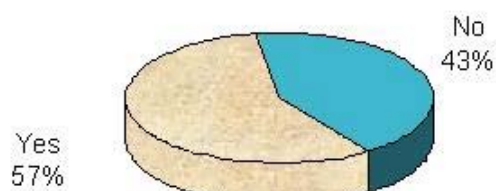
All Incidents 2003



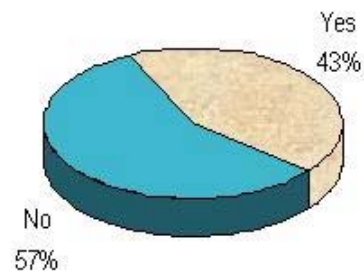
Shooter/Victim Information

Two-Party Incidents 2003

Members of the Same Hunting Party?



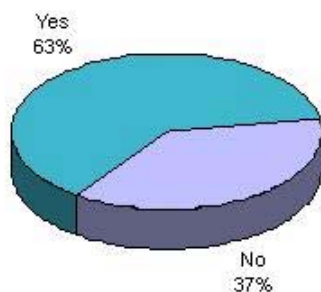
Could Shooter See Victim?



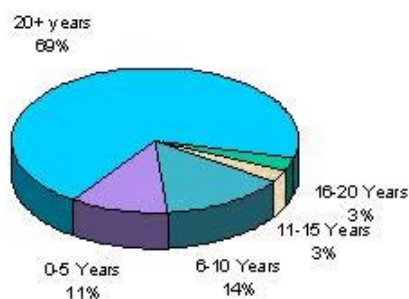
INCIDENT SHOOTER STATISTICS

All Incidents 2003

Hunter Education Graduate?



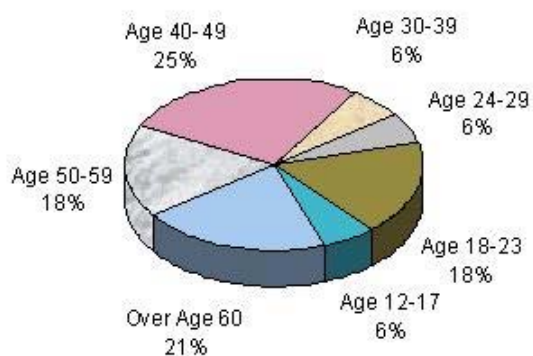
Years of Hunting Experience



INCIDENT SHOOTER STATISTICS

All Incidents 2003

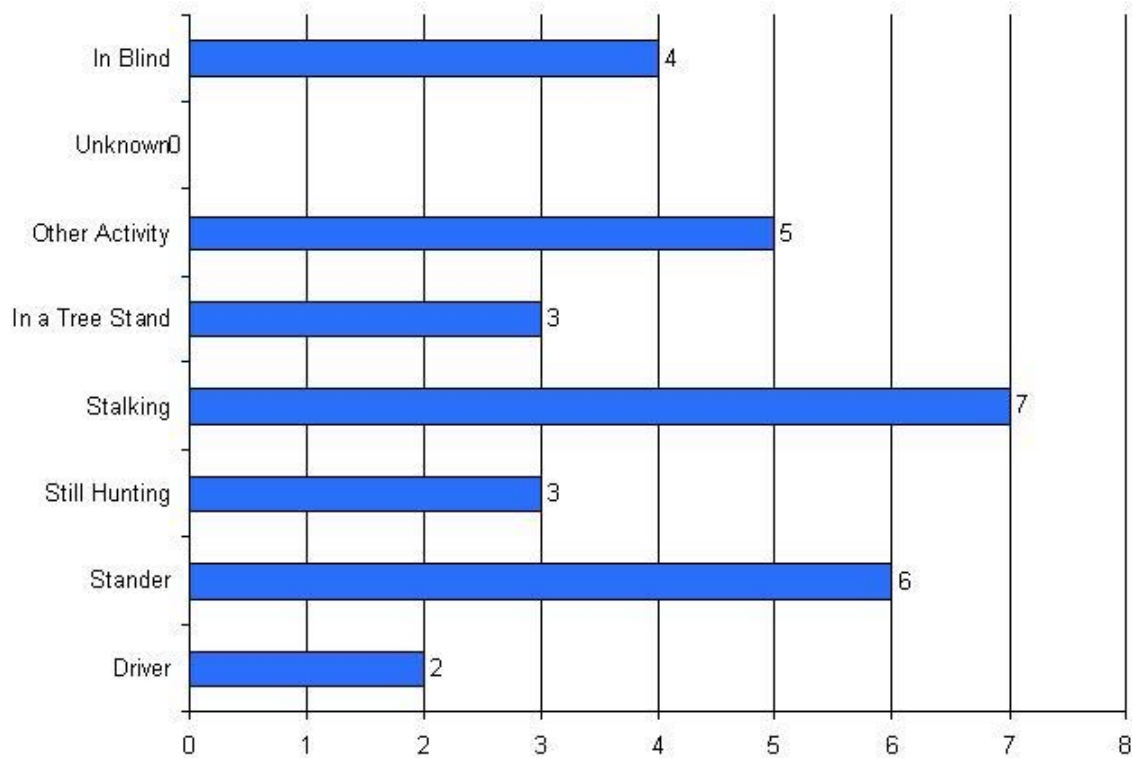
Age



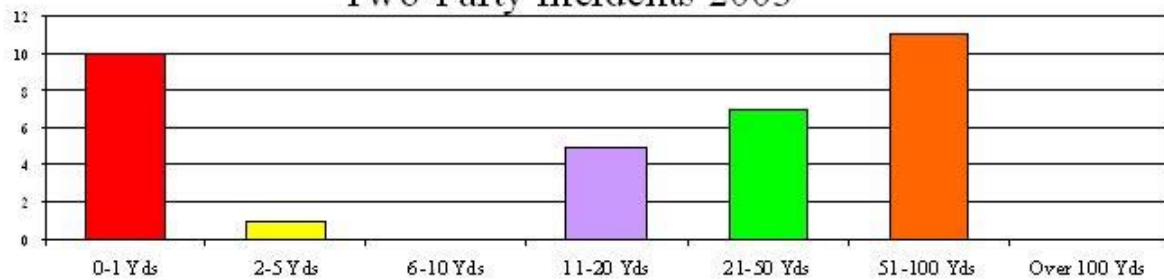
Gender



Activity Shooter Was Involved In All Incidents 2003



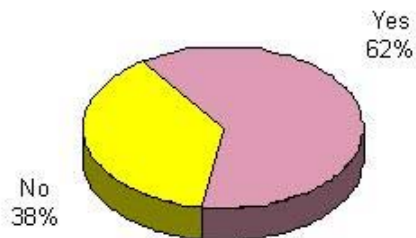
DISTANCE FROM MUZZLE TO WOUND Two-Party Incidents 2003



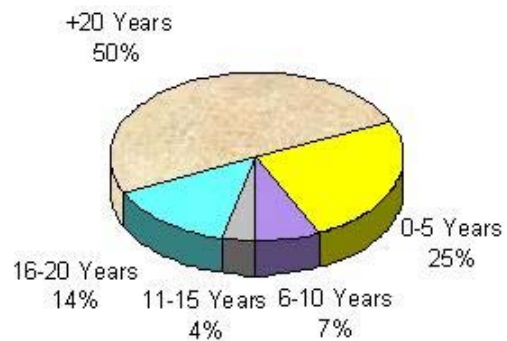
INCIDENT VICTIM STATISTICS

All Incidents 2003

Hunter Education Graduate?



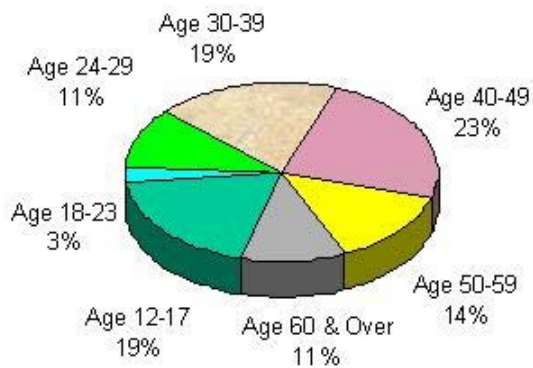
Years of Hunting Experience



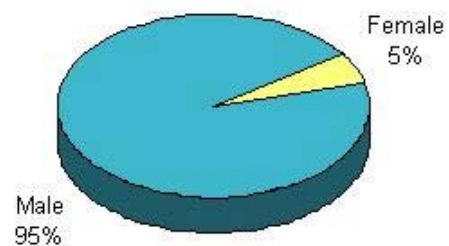
INCIDENT VICTIM STATISTICS

All Incidents 2003

Age

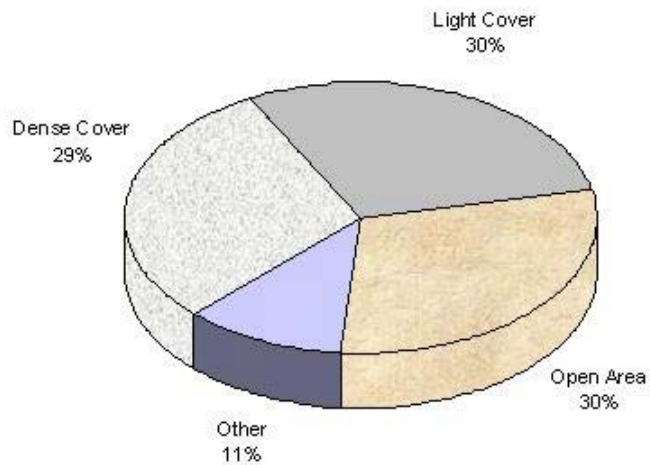


Gender



INCIDENT VICTIM SURROUNDINGS

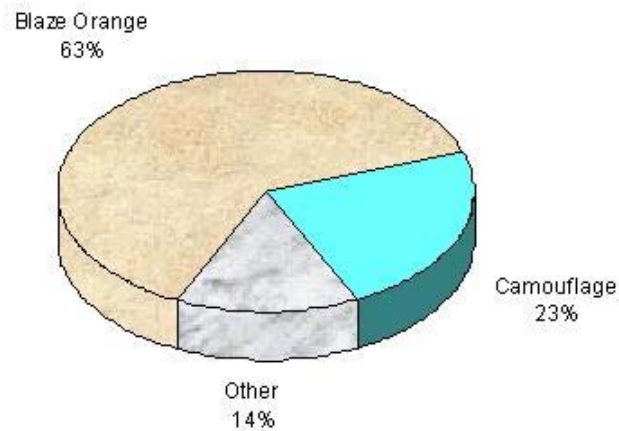
Two-Party Incidents 2003



INCIDENT VICTIM CLOTHING COLOR

Two-Party Incidents 2003

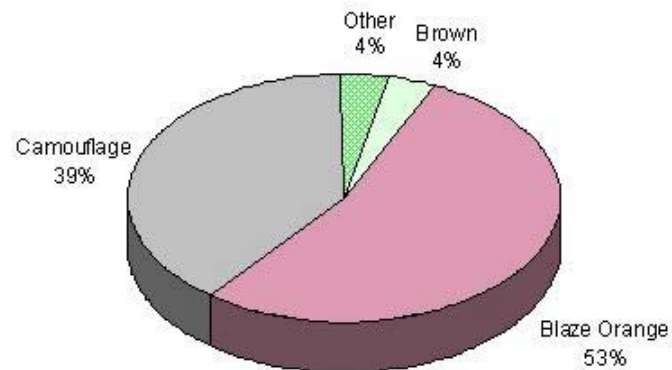
Cap



INCIDENT VICTIM CLOTHING COLOR

Two-Party Incidents 2003

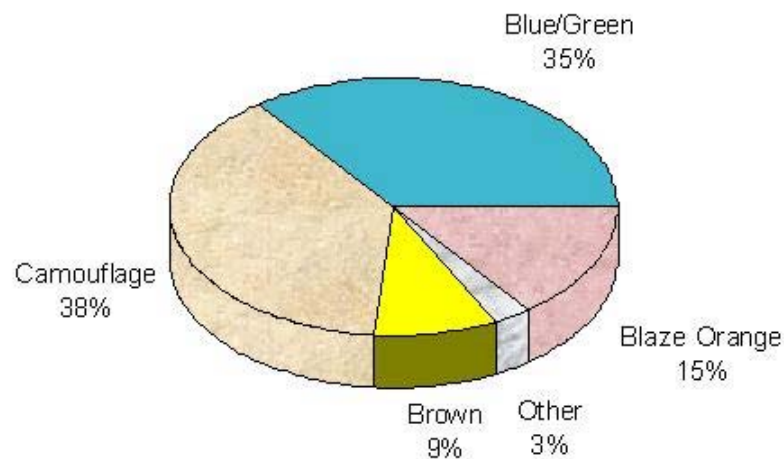
Coat or Vest



INCIDENT VICTIM CLOTHING COLOR

Two-Party Incidents 2003

Trousers



2003 Hunting Incidents by County
(All Incidents)

| County | #Incidents |
|----------------|------------|
| Adams | 1 |
| Ashland | 1 |
| Buffalo | 1 |
| Crawford | 1 |
| Dane | 1 |
| Dodge | 1 |
| Dunn | 3 |
| Iowa | 3 |
| Grant | 3 |
| Juneau | 1 |
| Kewaunee | 1 |
| Lafayette | 1 |
| Lincoln | 1 |
| Marathon | 1 |
| Outagamie | 1 |
| Portage | 1 |
| Price | 1 |
| Richland | 1 |
| Rock | 1 |
| Sawyer | 1 |
| Shawano | 1 |
| Sheboygan | 1 |
| Vernon | 1 |
| Vilas | 1 |
| Waupaca | 2 |
| Waushara | 2 |
| Winnebago | 1 |
| Total Reported | 35 |

2003 Hunting Incidents By
Deer Management Unit
(All Incidents)

| Deer Management Unit | # Incidents |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 18 | 1 |
| 20 | 1 |
| 22A | 1 |
| 32 | 1 |
| 33 | 1 |
| 36 | 1 |
| 53 | 1 |
| 54A | 1 |
| 59B | 3 |
| 6 | 1 |
| 61 | 1 |
| 62A | 1 |
| 63A | 2 |
| 63B | 1 |
| 65B | 2 |
| 66 | 1 |
| 67B | 1 |
| 68B | 1 |
| 69 | 1 |
| 73E | 5 |
| 74A | 1 |
| 74B | 1 |
| 75A | 1 |
| 76 | 1 |
| 77A | 2 |
| 80B | 1 |
| Total Reported | 35 |

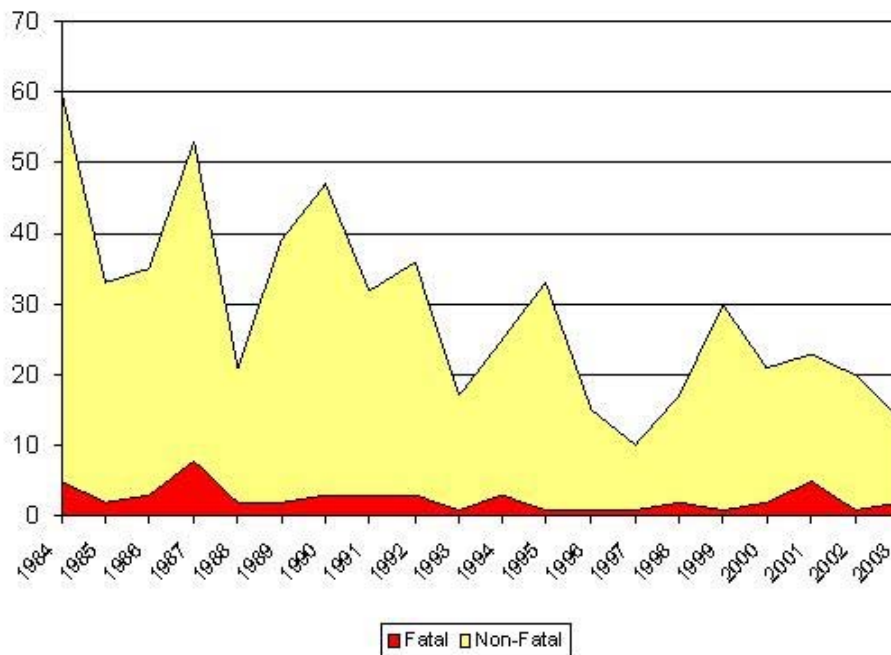
2003 Deer Gun Season Incidents
by County

| County | # Incidents |
|----------------|-------------|
| Adams | 1 |
| Buffalo | 1 |
| Crawford | 1 |
| Dunn | 2 |
| Grant | 2 |
| Juneau | 1 |
| Sawyer | 1 |
| Shawano | 1 |
| Sheboygan | 1 |
| Vilas | 1 |
| Waupaca | 2 |
| Total Reported | 14 |

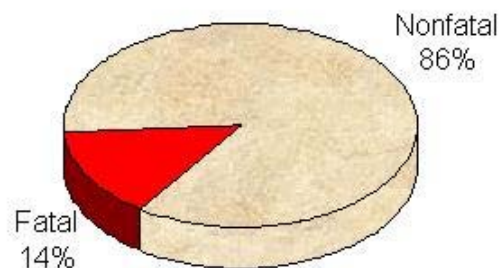
2003 Deer Gun Season Incidents
By Deer Management Unit

| Deer Management Unit | # Incidents |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 18 | 1 |
| 22A | 1 |
| 36 | 1 |
| 53 | 1 |
| 54A | 1 |
| 59B | 1 |
| 61 | 1 |
| 63A | 1 |
| 65B | 1 |
| 67B | 1 |
| 69 | 1 |
| 73B | 1 |
| 73E | 1 |
| 74B | 1 |
| Total Reported | 14 |

History of Gun Deer Incidents

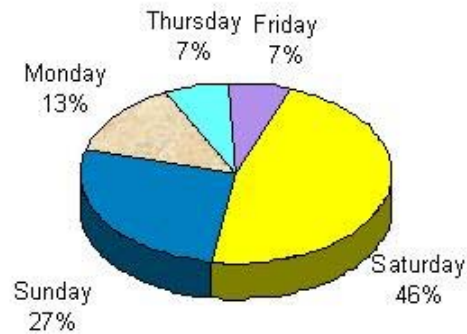


2003 GUN DEER SEASON INCIDENTS



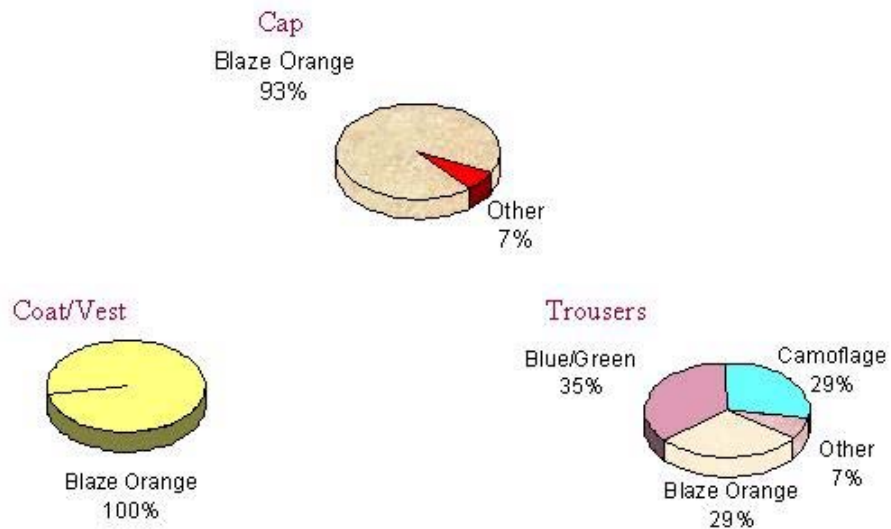
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

2003 Gun Deer Season

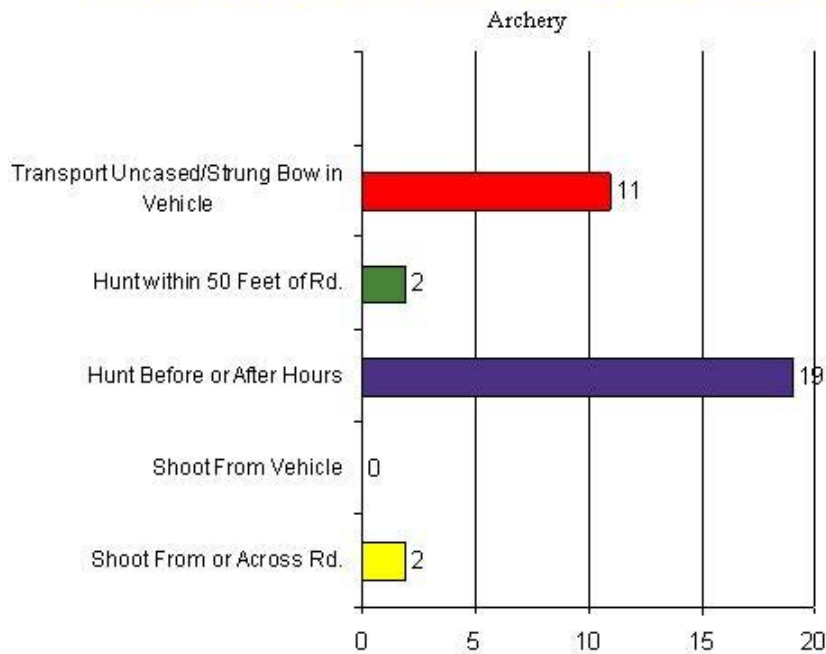


INCIDENT VICTIM CLOTHING COLOR

2003 Gun Deer Season - Two-Party Incidents



2003 DEER SEASON SAFETY VIOLATIONS



2003 DEER SEASON SAFETY VIOLATIONS

